



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800  
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956  
1-800-264-0904

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE**

Montgomery Bell State Park  
Thursday, November 2, 2006  
1:30 PM

Committee Members Present

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson  
Dennis Clark  
Michelle Crowley  
Chey Korvandi-Geledar  
Jim Ford  
Dana Lesley  
Carlton Lewis  
Jerry Maness  
Dwight Stokes  
Joetta Yarbrow

Members Absent

Sidney Bynum  
Judge Christy Little  
James Scott

Commission Member Present

Cindy Durham

Staff Present

Debrah Stafford, JJ Director  
Diane Baham, JJ Administrative Assistant  
Pam Brown  
Dana Cobb  
Kathy Daniels  
Fay Delk  
Emel Eff  
Rodger Jowers  
Ron King  
Phil McKenzie  
Ashok Midha  
John Nixon  
Linda O'Neal  
Gerald Papica  
Robert Smith  
Vicki Taylor  
Zanira Whitfield  
Elaine Williams

I. Approval of July Minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED (STOKES) AND SECONDED (LEWIS) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2006 MEETING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

II. Update on DMC Task Force.

King updated members on Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) activities and the most recent DMC meeting held on August 15, 2006 with approximately 32 attendees. He reported on the status of the risk assessment tool.

Memphis is now using the tool and hopes other detention centers will participate as well so the tool can be improved. King reported on local DMC task force activities including:

- a well-attended judges' forum in Memphis;
- a symposium of the Baptist Ministerial Association in Memphis regarding best practices;
- Mayor's First Day of School event in Davidson County where the DMC Task Force disseminated information;
- Montgomery County invited Teresa Lurry to come in July to present an overview for new DMC task force members;
- Judge Stokes in Sevier County conducted a three-hour juvenile court training with DCS workers, YSOs, probation officers, and attorneys which was well-attended, including King and Dennie Littlejohn.

Wanda Halbert, President of the Memphis School Board, has recommended the task force look at education within the juvenile court system in Georgia. Cosley asked how long and how successful the program in Georgia had been. King stated he did not know how long or how it was implemented, but DMC committee members suggested bringing some officials to Tennessee to explain how their program was implemented. Members discussed the possibility of a program like Georgia's in Tennessee. Stafford stated she understood they were doing a good job in Georgia. In Tennessee there are no standards for education, but Davidson County provides a certain number of hours of education for youth while being held in detention centers. Lewis agreed education is provided in Davidson County and the program has Metropolitan School Board accreditation, but it is difficult for some children to make up the lost time from school while in detention. Yarbrow stated schools only have four and one-half years to graduate a child. Lewis added children are no longer eligible to receive waivers. Cosley asked King to obtain information on the program in Georgia. King advised that Halbert had formed a task force to study the program in Georgia and he has sent information to her.

King stated, as a result of changes in Americorp Vista volunteers, new people are needed in Nashville and Knoxville to replace those who have completed their terms.

### III. Update on CJJ/OJJDP Conferences.

King reported on the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual CJJ/OJJDP DMC Conference in New Orleans, "Law Enforcement Strategies for Reducing Racial Disparities and DMC in the Juvenile Justice System." It was held September 7-10, 2006 with approximately 300 attendees from 47 states. King stated the conference included topical information pertinent to law enforcement and would like to see regional training of law enforcement by 2008. King reported on the Tony Gobar Award given to Pat Cevera from Colorado. Stafford was on the committee to select the awardee. Crowley also attended and stated she learned a lot as a participant on the Youth Committee. She will be rewriting the manual and working on a website with help of other youth members. She stated the most moving presentation at the conference was on a New York City program for girls involved in prostitution. Crowley expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend.

IV. Update on Federal Funding.

Stafford reported on Federal Formula funding. She stated there is no handout as there are no real updates in this area. There are still reductions in federal funding and she does not know what will or will not be funded. Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) are funded at a lot less each year. Members should contact their state representatives and members of Congress explaining how important the funds are for Tennessee. Also, Title V funds have been drastically cut to \$56,000 this year. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) funds have remained the same each year.

V. Update on EUDL Conference.

Taylor reported on the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Baltimore conference she and Ford attended in August. All sessions focused on underage drinking laws across the country. Ford agreed with Taylor that it was a good conference with approximately 3,000 attendees. He stated Taylor accepted an award for Tennessee's efforts in EUDL. Ford stated he was impressed with all the sessions he attended. He added this was the third conference he had attended as a Committee member and sessions seem to get better each year. Ford added Taylor had a Tennessee presentation booth set up for attendees.

VI. Discussion of 2007 Three-Year Plan to OJJDP.

Stafford distributed a handout on standard program categories grant funding and reviewed the handout with committee members. She explained the Juvenile Justice and Minority Issues Committee and full Commission contributes each year to the information put into the Three Year Plan which is submitted to the Federal government. We look at the funds awarded and determine how they will be spent across the state. The handout shows Federal Formula Grant funds and the program categories where the funds would be better used. Stafford explained the award process for Federal Formula funds.

- 10 percent used for Planning and Administration (P&A).
- Certain amount set aside for the State Advisory Group (comprised of Commission members). The amount is determined by the federal government, not by TCCY, and is usually around \$30,000 per year. This primarily pays for Commission member travel.
- \$117,000 for jail removal which is money set aside for use by areas without detention centers to keep children out of jails.
- \$65,000 for monitoring. Funds help pay for part of staff salaries and travel to monitor detention facilities.
- \$100,000 DMC task force funds set aside to work on disproportionate minority contact issues. In addition, funds are used to co-sponsor conferences, help pay for Vista volunteers, and for DMC Task Force members to attend conferences for information gathering.

Stafford stated the remainder of the award after the funds above are removed is the amount that is split between the program categories the Commission determines they want funded. These categories should be guided by data included in the plan. In 2006, the program categories for grantee applications were:

- Delinquency Prevention
- Minority Overrepresentation
- Alternatives to Detention
- Gender Specific Services
- Youth Advocacy

Stafford stated there is concern minority overrepresentation is not being properly addressed in the Juvenile Justice system, even though it is one of the five program categories. She reviewed the DMC historical perspective and the funds that have been set aside for DMC, and there is concern we could better address minority overrepresentation and actually see results. Performance Measures are now required on projects funded.

Stafford referred members to the handout and the Proposed Federal Formula Grant Funding 2007-08 total award which is based on the 2006 award which is attached. The Grant Review Committee (GRC) recommended \$60,000 each be pulled out annually for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) juvenile court data and the youth courts statewide program.

Durham asked about the difference in DMC funding amounts on different pages and Stafford explained the total amount would still equal \$100,000. Durham asked about the suggested special projects funds set aside for Memphis and Sevierville and what would happen if a better, newer idea or project came along but funds were already promised to another project. Stafford stated this was only a suggestion and something the Committee needed to vote on and these two areas were cited because of their expressed interest in DMC. Cosley stated the Committee needed to get serious about DMC funding and hit the two categories hard. Cosley stated a Station House Adjustment Project in Memphis would involve law enforcement and children that have committed an initial offense and are taken to the Station House where law enforcement monitors them and mentors them to help reduce minorities overrepresented in detention. Stafford stated the program had already worked well in Chicago. Members can get a copy of the description of the Station House Adjustment Project from King.

Ford asked if funds were spent last year on DMC issues and why there were not a lot of grant applications coming in to address the issue of DMC. Stafford stated some programs want to serve more than the DMC population and some rural areas do not have a lot of minorities. Ford stated there were not a lot of grant requests from Memphis. Maness stated law enforcement felt overwhelmed and processing of juveniles was also an issue.

Clark asked if Memphis and Sevierville would still have to submit an application and Stafford stated they would. Ford suggested changing “Memphis” to “large county” and “Sevierville” to “multi-county.” Stokes stated Sevier County would not be the best location, but the surrounding multi-county area would be more appropriate and only if the judges in the surrounding counties were willing to work on the project. For example, the Knox and Sevier County areas could also be considered. He added the Sevierville area

had only expressed interest in the project and had not yet been chosen. Ford stated he did not want to fund something that would not be successful.

O'Neal agreed efforts needed to be stepped up on DMC issues and agreed with Stokes that judicial support was necessary. O'Neal suggested making it an RFP issue and having it opened for applicants with clear criteria as a targeted project. She stated two places is a good idea but the two areas should not be specified. Cosley agreed an RFP would be necessary and requested a motion on the proposed Federal Formula Grant Funding for 2007-08.

Lesley asked about results of the awards from last year and if the programs had been monitored. Stafford explained these programs are monitored (onsite visits) using performance measures that are now required by the federal government. Stafford stated programs now have to show how their goals and objectives were achieved. Lesley stated she wants programs funded that can show the results of their efforts, and suggested the targeted RFP should include law enforcement. Stafford suggested Lesley look at the Station House Adjustment Project. Crowley added the projects should go through the usual approval process by the GRC.

**IT WAS MOVED (FORD) AND SECONDED (CROWLEY) TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FEDERAL FORMULA GRANT FUNDING BUDGET FOR 2007-08, INCLUDING AWARD MONEY SET ASIDE SPECIFICALLY FOR ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) IN ONE LARGE COUNTY AND ONE MULTI-COUNTY AREA IN TENNESSEE; AND, DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR THE CATEGORIES OF DELINQUENCY PREVENTION BE SET AT 55 PERCENT AND ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION AT 45 PERCENT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

VII. Update on Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Violations.

McKenzie reported in 2005-06 there were 137 total Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) violations. There was one separation violation and five jail removal violations and only three counties in that time period out of compliance. He added there were 6,304 status offenders held and 25,486 delinquents in detention for a total of 31,790 children. Stafford stated the maximum amount of DSO violations Tennessee can have is 416 and still be in compliance. Lesley asked how many violators were minorities and McKenzie stated it was broken down in the report.

VIII. Update on Detention Assessment Tool.

Stafford stated the RFP for the Detention Assessment Tool would be revised to try to get other counties interested and she would report back to the Committee.

IX. Update on Program Monitoring.

Stafford stated since TCCY no longer has Dannie Epstein and Dick Brewster to perform monitoring duties, the Regional Coordinators would be monitoring federally funded programs and Juvenile Justice staff will provide monitoring for State Supplement and

Reimbursement Account programs. She added the Program Monitoring Plan had been submitted to Finance and Administration, and they have accepted the plan.

X. Other Business.

There being no other business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

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Diane Baham, Administrative Assistant

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Beverly Cosley, Chairperson

## Proposed Federal Formula Grant Funding 2007-2008

Proposed FFG Program Budget (2007-08 if funds remain the same)

<b>Total Award</b>	<b>\$1,045,000</b>
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Less Earmarked:

Planning & Administration	104,500
State Advisory Group	30,000
Jail Removal	117,000
Monitoring	65,000
DMC Task Force	100,000
Youth Advocacy (AOC/Youth Courts \$60,000 for each program)	120,000
Minority Overrepresentation (Special Projects)	200,000

<b>Total</b>	<b>736,500</b>
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<b>Amount for Grantees</b>	<b>308,500</b>
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### List of Categories for Grantee Applications in 2007-08:

- |                             |     |           |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|
| • Delinquency Prevention    | 55% | \$169,675 |
| • Alternatives to Detention | 45% | 138,825   |

